

## *About Assemblymember Koretz*

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### **PAUL KORETZ: A LEADER ON ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES**

Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) was elected to represent the 42<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District in November of 2000. Mr. Koretz began his political career when he worked to incorporate the City of West Hollywood in 1984 and served as Mayor and City Councilman for 12 years before his election to the California State Assembly. Paul Koretz has been a long time champion of progressive issues such as strengthening labor, improving public health, reducing gun violence and vigorously fighting for human rights, particularly for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community. Mr. Koretz has also established himself as a leader in developing environmental protection and animal welfare legislation.

Koretz is a well-known advocate for animals and was the author of a resolution declaring West Hollywood an Animal Cruelty-Free Zone. As a city councilman, he spearheaded a program featuring a pet adoption program at City Council meetings and sponsored the City's dangerous dog ordinance. Koretz is also working to create a Beverly Hills / West Hollywood "no-kill" animal shelter. He created West Hollywood's Animal Issues Task Force and authored an ordinance to charge less for dog and cat license fees for animals which have been spayed or neutered.

As an Assemblyman, Koretz authored AB 1336 in 2002 to address the pet overpopulation crisis which would have required pet stores to spay or neuter cats and dogs before they are sold. The bill received heavy opposition, but a compromise bill was eventually signed into law which requires pet stores to provide new owners of dogs and cats information about the benefits of spaying and neutering. In 2003 he authored several bills to help animals, including legislation that will prohibit the declawing of cats (AB 395), would ban pound seizure statewide (AB 588), and to prevent hunters from using dogs to hunt bears (AB 342). Koretz received an A+ score on both the 2001 and 2002 voting report card from PAW PAC, the state's political action committee for animals.

A life long Democrat, Paul Koretz lives in West Hollywood with his wife Gail, daughter Rachel and their two cats Chagall and Samantha. He loves baseball, science fiction, spending time with his family and enjoying LA's rich diverse cultural life.